Back from the Dead: Penicillin and Antibiotics
Study day for KS4

Friday 9th February 2018

A study day linked with the special exhibition Bioart and Bacteria of artwork created by internationally renowned bioartist Anna Dumitriu drawing on contemporary science in the field of antibiotics and microbiology. The programme will include workshops about the amazing story of the development of penicillin in wartime Oxford, the rise of antimicrobial resistance in modern medicine, and challenge to modern scientific research. Students will meet researchers and enjoy hands-on activities.

Programme

9.30 – Welcome and Introduction
9.45 -11.00 – Session 1 [Exhibition tour and object handling]
11.15 -12.15 – Session 2 [A/B in rotation]
12.15 -1.00 – Lunch break
1.00 - 2.00 – Session 3 [A/B in rotation]
2.00 - 2.20 – Plenary session and feedback

Exhibition tour and object handling

A guided tour of the special exhibition will introduce the story of penicillin including the wartime story in Oxford, the race to develop the first modern antibiotic and the first human trials. Tours will be back to back with a medical object handling activity.

A: Penicillin the Wonder Drug

This session will explore the story of penicillin from its discovery by Alexander Fleming to its war-time development in Oxford. Students will work in small groups on a task designed to highlight the societal factors influencing scientific research and application, developing their understanding of how science works.

B: Meet the Researchers

Students will meet researchers from Oxford University science departments, find out about research projects and try out hands-on activities.

* We regret that wheelchair access is limited at the Museum.

Booking and information: christopher.parkin@mhs.ox.ac.uk, tel: 01865 277297
Charges: £5 per student